Upliftment of SC Population in Assam

2559. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by her Ministry for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes population; and

(b) the amount sanctioned for the benefit of Scheduled Caste population in Assam, along with the number of beneficiaries during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry that oversees the interests of the Scheduled Castes. Besides implementing several welfare and protective schemes on its own, this Ministry also closely monitors the action taken by other Ministries for protection and promotion of the interests of SCs. As a special measure, under the Post Matric Scholarship scheme, committed liability was dispensed with for the North Eastern States from the year 1997-98.

(b) Details are in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix-189, Annexure No. 65]

Export of Steel Plates by SAIL

2560. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the MINISTER OF STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India is exploring new international markets like Taiwan and Mexico for exports of steel plates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the export of steel plates by SAIL in the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the details of the target set by SAIL for the current year?